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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Summer-cypress, a new host plant for Vapourer *Orygia antiqua* (L.) (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae). – Summer cypress *Bassia scoparia* (L.), is a bushy annual chenopod, up to one metre high, similar in general appearance to fat hen *Chenopodium album* and grass-leaved orache *Atriplex littoralis* to which it is closely related. Although *Bassia* has been cultivated in gardens in the British Isles since 1629 (why?), it has only started to spread along roadsides and motorways in the past few years. The first records for Kent, along the M20, were made by Rodney Burton in 2004 (Kitchener, G. & Palmer, J.R., *KFC Bulletin* **50**:54–56). The plant has continued to spread and the opportunity was taken on 12.ix.2006 to inspect some plants in relative safety in the lay-by halfway up Detling Hill on the A249 north of Maidstone. Two larvae of the Vapourer moth *Orygia antiqua* (L.) were found in the foliage and appeared to be eating the leaves. This is probably a new host plant for this species in UK. A large, isolated *Bassia* plant was noted further north at Stockbury roundabout, where the A249 joins the M2. The invasion of east Kent and Sheppey would appear to be only a matter of time. It is very likely that invertebrates feeding on related chenopods will transfer to this plant. – J. S. BADMIN, Coppice Place, Selling, Kent ME13 9RP